

Appl. No. 09/986,892

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 remain in the application. Claim 1 and claim 12 have been amended.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has raised a restriction requirement, requiring the Applicant to restrict the claims to one invention, on the basis that claims 1-11 and claims 12-14 are directed to distinct inventions which require a separate search.

In response, we have amended claim 1 to delete the language "wherein the ions enhance the antimicrobial properties of the at least one essential oil", and we have amended claim 12 to make it dependent upon claim 1. We submit that the claims as amended are now directed to a single invention.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Please charge any fees payable to our deposit account no. 02-2095.

Favourable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (once amended) An aqueous antimicrobial composition for disinfecting, sanitizing or cleaning surfaces, comprising:

- (a) about 0.5% to 10% by volume of at least one essential oil exhibiting antimicrobial properties in a water carrier;
- (b) about 2 to 12% by volume of a solvent sufficient to form an aqueous mixture of the essential oils in the water carrier;
- (c) sufficient water to make up 100% by volume; and
- (d) about 1 to 1000 ppm of an agent for introducing ions into the water;
~~wherein the ions enhance the antimicrobial properties of the at least one essential oil.~~

12. (once amended) ~~The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the ions are~~ An aqueous antimicrobial composition for disinfecting, sanitizing or cleaning surfaces comprising:

- ~~(a) about 0.5% to 10% by volume of at least one essential oil exhibiting antimicrobial properties in a water carrier;~~
- ~~(b) about 2 to 12% by volume of a solvent sufficient to form an aqueous mixture of the essential oils in the water carrier;~~
- ~~(c) sufficient water to make up 100% by volume; and~~
- ~~(d) about 1 to 1000 ppm of an agent for introducing groundwater ions into the water.~~